

Past continuous tense



**The farmer was working at
6 o'clock yesterday evening**

Past continuous tense

AFFIRMATIVE: Play

I	was	playing
You	were	
We		
They		
He	was	
She		
It		

Past continuous tense



Was the teacher explaining grammar at school last Monday?

No, she wasn't. She was explaining Geography.

Past continuous tense

INTERROGATIVE: Play

was	I	playing?
were	you we they	
was	he she it	

NEGATIVE: Play

I	Was not Wasn't	playing
You We They	were not weren't	
He She It	was not wasn't	

Uses of the past continuous

1-We use the past continuous tense to describe a past action over a period of time



"What **were** they **doing** yesterday at 8 o'clock?"

"They **were working** all day."

2-We use the past continuous to say that somebody was in the middle of doing something at a certain time.



This time yesterday the hairdresser **was working**

3-Past simple and past continuous are used together when something happened in the middle of something else



The policeman **broke his ankle while he **was running** after the dog**

Compare the past continuous (I was doing) and past simple (I did):

Past continuous (in the middle of an action)

- I **was walking** home when I met Dave. (in the middle of walking home)
- Ann **was watching** television when the phone rang.

Past simple (complete action)

- I **walked** home after the party last night.
- Ann **watched** television a lot when she was ill last year

Past continuous tense

Time expressions:

While, as, when.



While the band was playing a
mobile phone rang